

## ***Oligoneuron album***

Prairie goldenrod

### Status

Federal status: G5 N5, Not listed

NH state status: S1, Endangered

ME state status: Not ranked or listed

This species is ranked as Division 2 (Regionally Rare) in Flora Conservanda. Trends for this species are uncertain across much of its range. The two native occurrences in New Hampshire have been stable or increasing in size.

The current outcome for this species is A/B across its range. The outcome is B on the WMNF at best. The outcome in 20 years on the WMNF is C. Habitat is not abundant and populations are not likely to increase on the Forest given increasing pressures.

### Distribution

This species grows from southeastern Canada west to Saskatchewan, south to Colorado, South Dakota, Missouri, Ohio, New York, and New England, excepting Maine. It is also found from North Carolina across to Oklahoma and south to Georgia.

In New Hampshire, there are three extant occurrences – two in Lyme and one in Cornish. The Cornish occurrence is believed to be a nonnative population introduced in a wildflower seed mix from the Midwest. One of the two New Hampshire occurrences in Lyme is definitely on federal land along the Appalachian Trail that is managed by the WMNF, though it is not within the Forest's proclamation boundary. Ownership of the other Lyme occurrence has not been confirmed, but it may also be managed by the WMNF.

### Habitat

New Hampshire occurrences are all in full sun on dry, calcareous soil or bedrock. However local experts indicate it can also occur in partly shaded habitats. *Oligoneuron album* occurs primarily on dry, calcareous cliffs and ledges. It may also occur in open fields and roadsides.

### Limiting Factors

Development has limited suitable habitat in some places. Succession and increased shade could threaten this species if a canopy is allowed to close in over it. Invasive species may pose a threat.

In northern New England, hiking, rock climbing, mowing, and possibly logging pose the most immediate threats. One WMNF site has been affected by trampling by Appalachian Trail hikers, despite a fence. Part of this same occurrence is impacted by annual ski area mowing. If regularly done prior to seed set, mowing can negatively affect *Oligoneuron album*. Known Vermont locations may be negatively impacted by rock climbing, and one is in an area that has been marked for logging. The logging may help keep the canopy open, which would benefit this species, but could impact individuals depending on implementation.

### Viability concern

Expert panel indicated a declining outcome for this species due to impacts from hiking, over which the Forest has some control. Although the species is expected to remain viable on lands managed by the WMNF, new populations are not likely to be found since the Appalachian Trail (AT) has been surveyed fairly thoroughly and the main portion of the Forest is considered to be outside this species' range. While other species on the list are threatened by hiking pressure, none are so strongly tied to AT management and calcareous rock and meadow habitat.

### Management activities that might affect viability

Trampling by hikers is the primary threat on the WMNF, so efforts to keep AT hikers on the trail would reduce the potential for trampling. To date, fencing efforts have not been successful at one known site.

Trail construction or other development could affect this species if it would impact suitable habitat or increase human traffic near suitable habitat. Trail maintenance activities could alter habitat suitability or directly impact individuals.

Mowing of the ski area that contains an occurrence prior to seed set by this species (and any other rare species that may occur there) would reduce reproductive success. Mowing after seed has been set could help maintain habitat suitability. It is uncertain whether the Forest has any influence on when the ski area is mowed.

Timber harvest could help keep the forest canopy open and maintain suitable habitat. Depending on timing and location of ground disturbing activity, timber harvest could directly impact individuals.

Management to prevent, control, or eradicate invasive species could help prevent competition and maintain habitat suitability.

### References

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